

I am concerned greatly by the decline of lively discussion of world events. I see a direct correlation between the increasingly narrow dispersion of ownership and limitations on speech. The ongoing destruction of the Constitution is not commented on by the media, and all the while the pundits of the right clamor about a "liberal media" that no longer exists except as a target for hate. There are widespread anti-war feelings in this country today, but radio stations play no anti-war songs because the corporate ownership removes anything controversial from the playlist. Ignorance runs rampant in the name of patriotism. A state Senator in Washington state leaves the floor rather than be present for the prayers of a Muslim cleric, leaving in the name of patriotism, a result of Islam being painted as unpatriotic by corporate media.

The wider the ownership of media, the greater number of voices and viewpoints will be heard. Democracy is supposed to be messy. Consolidation is contrary to the interests of the citizens media should be serving.